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NEWS FROM CSPI

Irradiate This

One way to eliminate *E. coli* and other
potentially harmful bacteria in ground beef,
chicken, and other foods is to irradiate them.

Irradiation's big plus: It kills bugs dead.
But there are a few reasons to be concerned
about the process. It involves moving
radioactive material around the country—
always a risky proposition. And it doesn't
prevent sloppy handling at the plant, at
home, or in restaurants, which could recon-
tamine food after it's been zapped.

Whether you can't wait to buy irradiated
beef and other products or you're deter-
mined to avoid them, one thing is clear:
Consumers need to be able to identify irra-
diated foods at the supermarket and in restau-
rants. That's what nine out of ten people
said in a nationally representative telephone
poll of 1,000 adults that we commissioned in
June of 1996.

If you agree, please write or e-mail the offi-
cials listed below and tell them that irra-
diated foods need to carry a prominent disclo-
sure, in easy-to-read type, on the front of the
package. Thank you.

Thomas J. Billy, FSIS Administrator
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rm. 331-E
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250
(Tom.Billy@usda.gov)

jane E. Henney, FDA Commissioner
(see coupon for address and e-mail)

Unconscientious Resisters

Antibiotics kill bacteria. That's why
they save lives...except when they
don't work.

Here's at least part of the problem:
Antibiotics are routinely fed to cattle,
hogs, and poultry to make them grow
faster. That major—and unnecessary—use
boosts the odds that bacteria will
become immune to antibiotics. And if
you happen to get an infection caused
by one of those resistant bacteria, the
antibiotic your doctor prescribes could
be useless. That could kill you.

We have filed a petition with the
Food and Drug Administration asking
that medically useful antibiotics be
banned from animal feed. You can
help by signing and mailing this
coupon or, better yet, by writing or
e-mailing in your own words.

To: Commissioner Jane E. Henney
Parklawn Building, Rm. 14-71
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
(JHENNEY@oc.fda.gov)

From: Joyce Kassel
34 Dupont St.
Dumont, NJ 07628

As a member of the Center for Science in
the Public Interest (CSPI), I urge you to
save human lives by banning the use of
medically useful antibiotics in animal feed.
Adding antibiotics to feed in order to pro-
mote growth can make bacteria resistant
to those antibiotics. And that can leave
physicians with no way to treat life-threat-
ening bacterial infections in humans. That's
why I support the petition filed by CSPI.

The contents of NAH are not intended to provide personal
medical advice, which should be obtained from a qualified
health professional.

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changes in government and corporate policies.

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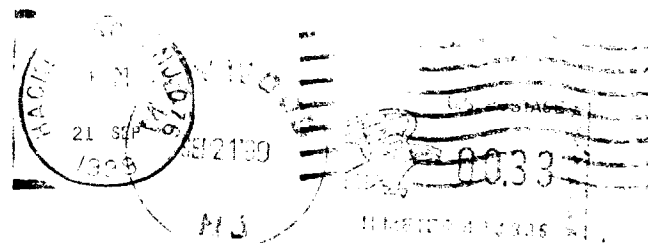
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Comm. Jane E. Kenney
Parklawn Bldg. Room 14-71
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

